

little light upon the subject. The doctrine which attributes them to an imperfect effort at foetation without the uterus is the most plausible, and yet there are many difficulties in the way of its implicit adoption.

The remaining articles, after the announcement of the subject proposed for the prize essay of 1865, are occupied by notices of deceased members, abstract of proceedings of the annual session of 1864, lists of honorary and permanent members, honorary graduates of medicine upon the recommendation of the society, persons eligible for membership, permanent and honorary, etc. etc.

D. F. C.

ART. XIX.—*Reports of American Hospitals for the Insane:—*

1. *Of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, Mass., for the fiscal year 1862-63.*
2. *Of the Butler Hospital, for the year 1863.*
3. *Of the State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y., for the year 1863.*
4. *Of the (U. S.) Government Hospital, for the fiscal year 1862-63.*
5. *Of the Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, for the fiscal year 1862-63.*
6. *Of the Longview Asylum, for the fiscal year 1862-63.*
7. *Of the Boston Lunatic Asylum, for the years 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862 and 1863.*

1. THE report for the fiscal year 1862-63 of the trustees of the *State Lunatic Hospital*, at Worcester, Mass., contains a history of that institution, one of the oldest State charities of the kind in the country. The report of the Superintendent is, as usual, one of the most elaborate of its kind; but it does not contain so much matter adapted to our wants, as a provider for the Journal, as some of its predecessors.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in hospital Oct. 1, 1862 . . . .	200	196	396
Admitted in the course of the year . . . .	114	101	215
Whole number . . . . .	314	297	611
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	117	95	212
Remaining, Sept. 30, 1863 . . . . .	197	202	399
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . .	51	53	104
Died . . . . .	16	14	30

"Of the deaths which occurred during the year, six were from general paralysis, nine from consumption, six from epilepsy, two from exhaustion, consequent upon maniacal excitement, and two from general decay of the vital powers and a premature old age, and two others, females, died without any apparent disease. They were each nearly ninety years of age."

Dr. Bemis writes as follows upon the subject of medical treatment:—

"The use of the warm bath, an occasional purgative and sedative, have been of service in producing quiet and repose in the early stages of acute mania, and in the paroxysms of periodical mania; while cold sponge baths, tonics, stimulants, and above all good diet, and active out-door exercise, have been found to give great relief to patients suffering from chronic mania. Cod-liver oil and stimulants have, in some cases, raised the standard of health in demented patients of feeble constitutions, where there was sluggishness of circulation, coldness of the extremities, and lividity of the surface."

Since the beginning of the war, and the consequent appreciation in price of all the articles of household consumption, the subject of the employment of the insane has attracted more attention and been more discussed, in some quarters, than at any anterior time. At the Worcester Hospital especial efforts appear to have been made to carry the system of labour to its utmost practicable extent, but Dr. Bemis states that "all the work performed by the patients is of an unsteady character, requires constant assistance and oversight, and is of a quality that no manufacturer or employer would be willing to purchase at any price."

We take a brief extract from the remarks upon moral treatment:—

"During the winter season, we had a series of about twenty lectures, several concerts of sacred music, and weekly parties for social entertainment, at which both sexes mingled freely with their attendants in games and in conversation, until nine o'clock in the evening."

2. The general statistics of the *Butler Hospital for the Insane*, for the year 1863, are as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Total
Patients in hospital Jan. 1st . . . . .	65	67	132
Admitted in course of the year . . . . .	22	15	37
Whole number . . . . .	87	82	169
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	19	20	39
Remaining, Dec. 31st . . . . .	68	62	130
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .			9
Died . . . . .			8

"There seems to have been a prevalent idea in the community," says Dr. Ray, "that the war must necessarily produce a considerable increase of insanity; and much surprise has been excited by the fact that the records of our hospitals furnish little, if any, support to this impression. The loss of property, the loss of friends, apprehensions of trouble, excitement and depression, hardship and exposure—the common incidents of war—seemed to be the very things most calculated to affect the reason; and acting on such a tremendous scale as they have, the last two or three years, a corresponding amount of evil was expected. Now, although such anticipations have not yet been fully confirmed by the event, yet it can hardly be denied that those incidents have acted, within that period, to some extent, as exciting causes of mental disease. They have told upon the mental health, not so much in the shape of overt insanity, as was expected, as in that of a morbid erethism which becomes the germ of disease to be developed hereafter. All our knowledge of morbid action warrants us in believing that the deteriorating influences of this great struggle upon the qualities of the brain, will be witnessed not so much in the present as in the next generation. The apprehension of a large increase of insanity arose from a common mistake respecting the origin of insanity, and especially the relation between outward occurrences and the springs of cerebral activity. Briefly speaking, the mistake consisted in supposing that insanity is generally the effect of some profound emotion, or serious bodily ailment—overlooking those organic conditions from which chiefly those events derive their power to harm."

From this position as a starting point the doctor proceeds through the remainder of the report with an essay upon the etiology of insanity, especially in its relations to hereditary predisposition. The deductions from his argument may be understood by a perusal of the following extract:—

"The course of our inquiry, then, leads us to this conclusion—that in the production of insanity there is generally the concurrence of two classes of agencies, one consisting in some congenital imperfection of the brain, and the other in accidental, outward events. I do not say that mental disease is never produced by the latter class of agencies exclusively. The present limited state of our knowledge forbids so sweeping a conclusion. Cases sometimes occur where the closest investigation discloses, apparently, no cause of cerebral disorder within the patient himself. There is good reason to believe that the number of such cases would be lessened by a deeper insight into the inner life and a minuter knowledge of those organic movements which lead to disease. We know that even in those cases in which, to all appearance, the casual incident was most competent of itself to produce the disease, the constitutional infirmity may be often discovered. Drunkenness, epilepsy, blows on the head, sunstroke, would seem capable, if anything outward could, of producing insanity; but as a matter of fact, we find, not unfrequently, behind these casual events, firmly seated in the inmost constitution of the brain, the hereditary infirmity. Can we believe that it took no part in the morbid process?"

"The almost universal conjunction of these two classes of agencies being

admitted, it becomes us to thoroughly understand and profit by the fact, for this, like most facts on the subject of insanity, may be turned to practical account. It might seem, at first sight, that the presence and predominance of the constitutional defect implied a kind of fatality in the course of things, which it would be useless to attempt to resist. That there may be occasionally, some ground for this idea, it would be wrong to deny; but in a large proportion of cases, the morbid element is not so potent as to be entirely beyond control. The peril being understood, it may be kept in abeyance by avoiding all those incidents and influences which are calculated to bring it into active operation, and faithfully complying with the proper rules of living."

3. The following numbers represent the general results of the operations of the *State Lunatic Asylum*, at Utica, New York, for the year ending November 30th, 1863:—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients at the beginning of the year . . . . .	262	252	514
Admitted in course of the year . . . . .	151	136	287
Whole number . . . . .	413	388	801
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	146	121	267
Remaining at the end of the year . . . . .	267	267	534
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .	36	44	80
Died . . . . .	27	15	42

*Causes of death.*—Phthisis pulmonalis, 8; general paresis (*paralysie générale*), 10; exhaustion from mental disease, 10; epilepsy, 4; old age, 3; convulsions, 2; congestion of the lungs, cerebro-spinal meningitis, syncope, peritonitis, and suicide by suspension, 1 each.

In allusion to the cases admitted, Dr. Gray says:—

"Each year demonstrates, more and more conclusively, that the true pathology of mental disorders is to be sought in physical enfeeblement. That the disease is dependent on conditions of more or less exhaustion of the vital forces. In treatment, this fact is kept constantly in view. Therefore, we urge earnestly upon the medical profession the husbanding of these forces in the earlier stages of the disease, in which the patients come under their care; especially the avoidance of all depletives, whether by dieting, purgatives, or bleeding. If any one thing has been thoroughly demonstrated by the progress of medical science, within the past half century, it is the unquestionable importance of sustaining nature under all forms of disease, whether it be where medical or surgical art can aid, by the removal of appreciable or tangible causes, or where the physician stands only as the instructed guardian of the recuperative powers. This being true, it is not strange that we should annually urge this point, and be anxious to receive patients before the vital forces are so far exhausted that the organism is depressed beyond the influence of recuperative agencies; and the unhappy sufferer, deprived of the chances of complete, or even partial restoration, is doomed, unjustly and unnecessarily, to a life of disease. If insanity is thus understood to be pre-eminently dependent on devitalization, why still repeat and urge these points? Of those admitted this year, labouring under acute maniacal disease, caused by exhaustion, several had been bled, some of them repeatedly, while others had been put on low diet, and douched and purged, all under the direction of physicians. While professional men continue such practice, it is no more than our duty to remonstrate and call attention to its evil consequences."

It will be perceived that the foregoing is in accordance with the doctrine, in regard to insanity, which we have advocated, in these notices and elsewhere, for nearly twenty years.

Some interesting results of an analysis of all the cases received at this hospital since it was opened, are published in the report. A part of them are embodied in the following extract:—

"Since the opening of the institution in 1843, there have been 538 persons readmitted. Twice under treatment, 400; three times, 95; four times, 32; five times, 6; six times, 5. In the general tables of statistics of insanity in the in-

stitution, those 538 persons make a total of 1,273—an error in the supposed number of insane persons, of 735. Deducting these readmissions from the total of admissions in twenty-one years, and the 58 not insane, we have the true number of insane persons treated in the asylum, 6,123, instead of 6,916, as represented."

In regard to the results of treatment, in the patients who were readmitted, the report proceeds to show that "we have, in 538 persons, 662 recoveries, 207 improved, 277 unimproved, 61 deaths, and 66 remaining in the asylum."

These results exhibit some of the sources of error in deduction, which have several times been mentioned in our "notices" as pervading nearly all of the American statistics of insanity.

In the further analysis, made for the purpose of ascertaining the bearing of the cases treated at this hospital upon the subject of causation, we think the general tenor of the language gives the impression that, to a greater extent than is real, it was left to the hospital at Utica to demonstrate that, in the production of insanity, physical causes predominate over moral causes. In relation to this subject, we have just looked over some of the old reports of four American hospitals. At one of these hospitals nothing was said upon the subject; at the second (Worcester), Dr. Woodward, in 1839, in speaking of all the cases hitherto admitted, says: "There have been *four hundred and ninety-eight* cases arising from physical causes, and *three hundred and twenty-four* from moral causes." Thus *a fraction more than three-fifths* of the whole are attributed to physical causes. At the third hospital, that at Columbus, Ohio, which antedated that at Utica by several years, physical causes predominated over moral causes from the beginning. At the fourth—Bloomingdale, New York—the writer of this article wrote, in the report for 1844, less than two years after the opening of the hospital at Utica, as follows: "Nearly all the older authors agree in the opinion that, of the two classes of causes, the mental are more frequently productive of insanity than the physical. *From more recent observations it has been made to appear that the reverse of this proposition is the fact;*" and in the table of causation relative to the patients admitted in that year (1844), fifty-nine cases, or a little *more than three-fifths* of the whole, are alleged to have originated in physical causes, and but 36 in moral causes.

Dr. Brigham was an extremist upon the subject in question, to such an extent that his opinions upon it do not represent the opinions of the other superintendents of American hospitals twenty years ago. As one proof of this we will take some of the statistics of the Utica Hospital itself. Of the 2,376 patients admitted prior to the report of 1848, the last which Dr. Brigham wrote, only *nineteen*, or *four-fifths of one per cent.*, are attributed to masturbation; while of 367 admitted in 1849, and reported by Dr. Benedict, Dr. Brigham's successor, *fifty-three*, or *more than fourteen per cent.*, are assigned to that cause. The reason of this remarkable difference is simply that, in most of the cases regarded by Dr. Benedict as the product of masturbation, Dr. Brigham would have attributed the disorder to some mental or moral cause.

The subjoined remarks of Dr. Gray upon the power of the will among the insane will be read with interest, particularly by those who believe that power to be wholly destroyed by insanity.

"Self-control is utterly lost in but a very small proportion of the insane. The patients in any well-regulated asylum are properly held to a measure of responsibility. To ignore the fact that they have a good degree of self-control, and act on the assumption that they are entirely irresponsible, would be the abandonment of all healthful discipline, the removal of the strongest inducements to good conduct and the maintenance of self-respect. It is our constant aim to treat patients as men and women, to urge the cultivation of self-control, to impress the important duty of such conduct and conversation as will promote self-respect and due respect for others, and proper regard for the proprieties of life. \* \* \* We find freedom of will weakened but not destroyed. Among the ordinary patients in an asylum one would look in vain for entire irresponsibility. There are, of course, exceptional cases."

4. It was a fortunate thing for our general government, as well as for our soldiers and seamen, that the *Government Hospital for the Insane* had been

established, and was in successful operation at the beginning of the deplorable war in which we are now engaged. In a former notice we showed, by the statistics of that hospital, how rapidly the numbers of its inmates, chiefly derived from the army and the navy, had increased since the advent of the year 1861. In the report before us, which covers the period between the 30th of June, 1862, and the 1st of July, 1863, Dr. Nichols says: "The number of admissions in the course of the last two fiscal years has increased, each year, nearly one hundred per cent. The admissions in 1860-61 were ninety-five (95); in 1861-62, one hundred and eighty-five (185); and in 1862-63, three hundred and fifty-seven (357). There having been only seven readmissions in the same time, the number of persons treated was only seven less than the number of cases."

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in hospital June 30, 1862 . . . .	147	65	212
Admitted in course of the year . . . .	332	25	357
Whole number . . . . .	479	90	569
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	277	14	291
Remaining, June 30, 1863 . . . . .	202	76	278
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . .	198	6	204
Died . . . . .	57	4	61

*Causes of death.*—"Chronic, organic, and functional degeneration of the brain, without other complicative or supervenient disease before death, 18; chronic, organic, and functional degeneration of the brain, with epilepsy, 5; ditto, with serous apoplexy, 2; with chorea, 1; with *paralysie générale*, 1; with abscess of brain, 2; with tumour of brain, 2; with tumour of heart, 2; with fatty degeneration of heart, 1; with typhoid fever, 1; with dysentery, 4; with hemiplegia, 1; with diarrhœa, 2; with variola, 1; from maniacal exhaustion, 1; scrofula, 1; diarrhœa, 1; dysentery 3; typhoid fever, 12."

The general interest in most of the topics mentioned in the following extract, is a sufficient justification for its length.

"The department of the interior will learn with interest, we doubt not, that the number of the insane received into this hospital during the year under review, was greater than the greatest number ever received in the course of any one year by any other one institution on this continent; also, that owing to the immense armies and very large naval forces with which the war has been, and still is, prosecuted, and the specific sources from which our patients are mainly derived, a larger proportion of the cases received were affected with acute forms both of mental derangement, and of idiopathic bodily disease, than were ever before, in the course of one year, admitted into any one establishment on the globe.

"It should not be inferred that the war has been a prolific *moral* cause of insanity, either among the men of the land and naval forces waging hostilities against the common enemy, or among civilians of either sex or of any class. In not more than two per cent. of the four hundred and ninety-three (493) cases received from the army and navy since the war began, has even the exciting cause of mental disorder appeared to have been either the profound excitements attending a personal participation in active military hostilities prosecuted on the largest scale, a sense of great personal danger in battle, or anxiety and misgivings respecting the result of a great contest, in which every man of much moral susceptibility feels the deepest personal stake.

"The existence of more or less home-sickness among the national troops—perhaps the most pardonable weakness which a citizen soldier in the field can display—has been rendered evident by the character of the morbid mental manifestations exhibited by several of our army patients.

"Excepting a small proportion of cases caused by intemperance, cranial injuries, tumours, and other organic cerebral affections, necessarily sooner or later disturbing the mental manifestations, the insanity which occurs among the volunteer and other soldiers drawn from high temperate latitudes, campaigning in the lower latitudes of the same zone, appears to us to be, in most instances, one of the extreme consequences of a depression of the vital forces. The best constitutions are subject to such *sthenic* diseases as pneumonia and acute rheuma-

tism, but, with the exercise of a fair amount of prudence, they are often invigorated from the first by active service in the field. The weaker of the men, uninured to a soldier's life, are overmatched by the privations, exposures, and fatigues of active service. Especially when serving in a malarial region, they first become thin and enfeebled, and then, upon some extraordinary exposure or fatigue in such a state of debility, there supervenes either an intestinal flux or a low form of fever, sometimes both as distinct diseases. It is in the course or at the close of this series of agencies, which impair the strength and tone of the nervous system, that unsound mental manifestations begin to exhibit themselves.

"Most of the great political and social convulsions that have occurred in the course of the modern history of enlightened nations, have been attended with a manifest increase of insanity among the peoples most affected by such upheavals of society; but contrary to the anticipations which history authorized us to entertain at the outset of the struggle, the admission of civil cases into this hospital, situated in the very midst of the perturbations of the war, has been fewer during the last two years than before. We find that this exceptional feature in the domestic strife of arms in which we are engaged, is noticed by the medical directors of the two largest institutions in the loyal States.

"This important exception to the teachings of previous history cannot be accidental. It has been too uniform and too long continued for that to have been the case. It must be due to some peculiarities either in the character of our people, or in that of the war itself."

5. The next report in our list is that of the *Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum* for the fiscal year 1862-63.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in hospital Nov. 1, 1862 . . . . .	76	85	161
Admitted in course of the year . . . . .	47	44	91
Whole number . . . . .	123	129	252
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	47	42	89
Remaining, Nov. 1, 1863 . . . . .	76	87	163
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .	30	29	59
Died . . . . .	8	6	14

*Causes of death.*—Mania, 3; consumption, 3; paralysis, 2; apoplexy, 2; epilepsy, 1; pneumonia, 1; ascites, 1; marasmus, 1.

The whole number of patients received at this hospital since it was opened, and of whose insanity a cause was assigned, is 755. In treating of the etiology of insanity, Dr. Gundry shows that in 666, or 88 per cent. of these cases the disorder was attributed to but *ten* general causes. He further shows that of 17,492 cases treated in seventeen hospitals of the United States, no less than 15,069, or 86 per cent., were alleged to have had their origin in the same generative agents. We here combine the two tables.

	Dayton Hospital.	Seventeen hospitals.
Ill health of various kinds . . . . .	211	4,915
Intemperance . . . . .	72	1,764
Grief at loss of friends, and anxiety . . . . .	44	1,746
Religious excitement . . . . .	51	1,399
Domestic trouble . . . . .	71	1,112
Puerperal conditions . . . . .	82	1,050
Masturbation . . . . .	37	1,042
Pecuniary difficulties . . . . .	42	872
Disappointed affection . . . . .	42	592
Excessive mental application . . . . .	14	577
Total . . . . .	666	15,069

"The similarity of the results," says the report, "is remarkable. If we take the statistics furnished by individual hospitals, the results will differ in one or two particulars, from the influence of the situation and circumstances peculiar

to the institution, but will, in the main conclusions, show a striking accordance. Whatever errors in the details may have crept into these tables, the number of cases taken is so great, and the facts are derived from such different and numerous sources, that they can hardly affect the main results, and the conclusion is therefore inevitable, that whatever may underlie the production of insanity, these phenomena stand out so boldly in the history of its early stages, as to be the most prominent points that fixed the attention of vast numbers of independent observers who were searching for the causes of insanity in the cases they were connected with. These agencies, detached as we have seen from all other classes of causes, as the leading forces in the starting of insanity, are widely different in their character, yet since they are so often seen attendant upon—certainly antecedent to—and probably causative of the same result upon the mind, they would probably possess some qualities in common. They differ widely: some belong to the class of physical forces, whose action upon the body is known and cognizable; others to moral forces, whose operation upon the body is not so well ascertained or so easily appreciable. They possess alike a few striking characteristics. They tend to depress, either directly or indirectly, the physical powers of the body, to impair its vital energies, and disturb the proper exercise of its nutritive functions. They agree also in the slow, gradual, and insidious manner in which they accomplish their task. None of them overwhelm the victim by one blow, but by slight and repeated attacks, by the unremitting use of apparently feeble means."

In two instances in the course of the year, the alleged cause of mental disorder was "war excitement."

An excellent pair of magic lanterns, together with some slides, were purchased in the course of the year, and exhibitions of pictures and dissolving views were given to the patients.

6. Dr. Langdon, of the *Longview Asylum*, presents the following summary of the records of that hospital for the fiscal year 1862-63.

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in hospital Nov. 1, 1862 . . .	169	177	346
Admitted in course of the year . . .	79	51	130
Whole number . . .	248	228	476
Discharged, including deaths . . .	69	51	120
Remaining, Oct. 31, 1863 . . .	179	177	356
Of the discharged, there were cured . . .	49	29	78
Died . . .	10	12	22

Died of phthisis pulmonalis, 11; general paralysis, 4; erysipelas, 2; epilepsy, peritonitis, general anasarca, fatty degeneration of the heart, and chronic enteritis, 1 each.

We take from this report a part of the section devoted to moral treatment. "We think it a fact established beyond dispute, that a deranged person who is obliged to submit to a certain degree of restraint in a well regulated asylum, has a tenfold better chance of a speedy recovery, than one who is allowed to pursue all the dictates of a disordered fancy, unchecked by authority and discipline. With, therefore, a view to the cure of our patients, we regard restraint, under some modification or other, as of primary importance. And even in those instances where the disease has passed beyond the hope of cure, it is still of great value to the well-being of the patient, and to those who are about him.

"In our government of the asylum it is still a matter of prime consideration with us to keep as many as possible of the inmates engaged in some light and useful occupation. We have generally about two hundred of these people thus engaged, and the results have been highly beneficial not only in an economical point of view, but so far as the patients themselves are concerned. And upon them such occupation is eminently curative. When kept well at work the consequences are greater tractability in the wards, more refreshing sleep at night, and an earlier manifestation of the signs of returning intellect. In certain cases that are of paroxysmal type we have often seen the simple expedient of keeping

the parties so afflicted pretty constantly engaged, postpone the fit for many days and even weeks, and generally render it milder and of shorter duration.

"While we attach so much importance to the physical treatment of our patients, we are at no time unmindful of their moral management, and have endeavoured, as far as possible, to substitute the old instrumentalities of chains, hand-cuffs, strait-jackets, confinements, composing chairs, &c., by music, the dance, pictures, the songs of birds, and the games of ten-pins, billiards, chess, and checkers. Few persons are insensible to the concord of sweet sounds, the poetry of paintings or of motion, and the insane as a class are not an exception. Many a time we have been gratified and instructed by the potent influence of these agencies. We have seen them break the spell of profoundest melancholy, calm the turbulent spirits of the maniacal, call back by their magic influence the lost memory of brighter and happier days, soothe many an aching heart, and shed light upon the darkened mind where no means seemed competent to cure."

7. Until recently, we have received no report from the *Boston Lunatic Hospital* since the year 1852. We now have those for the five years next preceding 1864. The general statistics obtained from them are as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients in hospital January 1, 1859 . . . . .	59	64	123
Admitted in course of the year . . . . .	56	40	96
Whole number . . . . .	115	104	219
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	43	37	80
Remaining, January 1, 1860 . . . . .	72	67	139
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .	24	15	39
Died . . . . .	6	15	21
Admitted in 1860 . . . . .	66	60	126
Whole number . . . . .	138	127	265
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	64	34	98
Remaining, January 1, 1861 . . . . .	74	93	167
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .	33	19	52
Died . . . . .	21	8	29
Admitted in 1861 . . . . .	59	51	110
Whole number . . . . .	133	144	277
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	46	38	84
Remaining, January 1, 1862 . . . . .	87	106	193
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .	26	20	46
Died . . . . .	11	5	16
Admitted in 1862 . . . . .			98
Whole number . . . . .			291
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .			119
Remaining, January 1, 1863 . . . . .	87	85	172
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .			43
Died . . . . .			22
Admitted in 1863 . . . . .	34	47	81
Whole number . . . . .	121	132	253
Discharged, including deaths . . . . .	45	36	81
Remaining, January 1, 1864 . . . . .	76	96	172
Of the discharged, there were cured . . . . .			38
Died . . . . .			16

Of the 104 deaths in the five years there were from consumption, 26; paralysis, 18; epilepsy, 11; softening of brain, 11; exhaustion, 7; apoplexy, 6; typhomania, 3; delirium tremens, 2; marasmus, 2; acute mania, 2; disease of heart, congestion of lungs, tumour, dysentery, senile gangrene, pericarditis, Bright's disease, fever, congestion of lungs, chronic diarrhoea, accidental drowning, lung fever, brain fever, suicide, pleurisy, and peritonitis, 1 each.

Since this hospital came under the care of Dr. Walker it has been greatly



improved. Its apartments have been made more commodious and comfortable, and the means for exercise, recreation, and amusement have been much enlarged. A billiard table and a bowling alley have been supplied; and dances, concerts, and other assemblies for entertainment have been introduced.

In his report for 1861 Dr. W. says: "About the middle of September we were surprised, one morning, by the appearance of some twenty cases of diarrhoea among the patients. But by immediately washing out all the soil-pipes and drains, and increasing our fires (which it is our custom to light as soon as the nights begin to be damp), so as not only to warm but to thoroughly dry the atmosphere of the halls, all traces of it were removed in the course of thirty-six hours."

The following very just observations in regard to cases of delirium tremens or habitual intemperance are from the same report:—

"All of them are unsuitable cases for treatment in a hospital for the insane. They demand and should have privileges which it is difficult to afford them without creating excitement and discontent among the other patients. Moreover, wholly unable to see insanity in those most troublesome and difficult cases in which the experienced eye alone can detect the insidious evil, they foster, by their conversation and influence, that restlessness under necessary and wholesome restraint, and that suspicion of the motives of those who have the charge of them, which are among the greatest obstacles to the successful treatment of the insane."

In the report for 1862 it is said that "hitherto the excitement consequent upon the civil war has been rather of a healthy, tonic nature in this community, so far removed from the immediate contest and its attendant horrors. Its influence as an exciting cause of insanity has thus far hardly equalled that of most other general excitements." Dr. Walker thinks that after the contest is over, "then will be felt, in full force, the prolific influence of the present war upon the mental health of our people."

Among the patients of the year last mentioned were three soldiers from the U. S. Volunteers.

P. E.

---

ART. XX.—*A System of Surgery, Pathological, Diagnostic, Therapeutic, and Operative.* By SAMUEL D. GROSS, M. D., Professor of Surgery in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Illustrated by over thirteen hundred engravings. Third edition, much enlarged and carefully revised. In 2 vols. 8vo., pp. 1049 and 1087, with a full Index. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1864.

THE exhaustion, within the last five years, of two large editions of the *System of Surgery* by Prof. Gross has fully verified our prediction in regard to its probable success, in view of the need of such a work, which we then believed to exist, even before the occurrence of our national contest, which has since converted so many peaceful practitioners of medicine into students of surgery or active military surgeons. This gratifying evidence of approval of his labours has stimulated the distinguished author "to increased exertion to render the work still more useful as a faithful exponent of the existing state of the science and art of surgery."

Upon the present edition "upwards of two years and a half of arduous labour have been expended. Every chapter has been thoroughly revised; the text has been augmented by an amount of matter nearly equal to two hundred pages; and a considerable number of new woodcuts, nearly all expressly prepared for the purpose, have been introduced. Many portions have been entirely rewritten, and every effort has been made to condense the language; while an enlargement in the form of the work has prevented an increase in the number of pages. The general arrangement is the same as in the previous imprints; and the additions, for the most part widely scattered through the text, are essentially of a practical character."